



Working on your Water Woes

Good water management is sure to be high on the priorities of southwest landholders after this long, dry winter. So, in a bid to help farmers manage this issue, the BestFarms team has made water the focus of its upcoming workshops.

Free workshops, to be held in Darkan, Mt Barker and Boyup Brook in October, will focus on various aspects of water retention and efficiency.

The technical workshops, *Foliar Management for the Future*, will focus on water retention and nutrition management in soils, pasture and crops. These will be held in **Darkan** on Wednesday **October 27** and **Mt Barker** on Friday **October 29**.

In addition to these, BestFarms will present a *Water for the Future* workshop in **Boyup Brook** on Thursday, **October 28**. This will train participants on testing and improving water quality, capturing and storing water, and how to better retain moisture in the soil.

"We are offering landholders a friendly atmosphere in which to meet with other local landholders to discuss common land management issues, while also receiving some practical advice about how to plan for, and manage, climate variability - without becoming overwhelmed," said BestFarms Coordinator Kathe Purvis.

BestFarms - the flagship project of the Blackwood Basin Group, aims to provide practical and profitable solutions to the challenges facing landholders, in a bid to help manage our important land and water resources for the future.

The aim of our workshops is to help local landholders to plan for, and build resilience to, future climatic impacts on their properties and in their businesses. With guidance from local natural resource management (NRM) officers, BestFarms will focus the workshops around an issue specific to the workshop area. That workshop will then feature technical guest speakers to address management perspectives of the issue and include a landholder speaker to highlight their experiences and management techniques on-ground.

"Our guest speakers are an integral part of the day," Kathe Purvis said. "The experience and knowledge they can pass on to other landholders is invaluable."

Funded by the Australian Government's FarmReady Scheme, these workshops weave the BestFarms Environmental Management System process through talks from technical specialists, exemplary local landholders and practical tasks throughout the day.

"Participants will end the day with more knowledge on the likely future climatic trends for their region and how this will impact their operation, as well as an action plan focusing on one issue specific to their property," says BestFarms Project Officer Felicity Willett.

These workshops are free, and future dates include:

Nannup, Late November - Planning to manage extreme events, fire and storm

Late November, Denmark - Soil health and weed management

For further information about the workshops or to register your place, contact Felicity or Kathe on **9765 1555** or email to bestfarms@westnet.com.au



Our Blackwood River: A resource worth conserving